

Guidelines for Performing Oral Health Screenings

An oral health screening is an appraisal activity and identifies students with pain or imminent pain. It also creates awareness about the importance of good oral health. Please note, an oral screening does not replace a regular dental examination by a dentist.

1. Glove and position yourself in a comfortable, face to face position with the child and have the person recording results near you.
2. Have child open mouth as wide as possible. Use a tongue blade to guide tongue, lips and cheeks away from your field of vision.
3. Utilize a light source, observe teeth for obvious cavities, broken teeth, fillings and/or discoloration. Observe gums and cheeks for bleeding, pus drainage, lumps, swelling and discoloration. Inform recorder of oral screening results to be entered on the Oral Health Screening Form.
4. Replace gloves if soiled.
(Gloves are soiled when they have been in contact with saliva or have touched the child's face, head, hair, etc. Also the examiner should not touch the forms for recording the results.)

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